

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2140

To improve protection and management of the Chattahoochee River National
Recreation Area in the State of Georgia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 10, 1999

Mr. DEAL of Georgia (for himself, Mr. COLLINS, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia)
introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Re-
sources

A BILL

To improve protection and management of the Chattahoochee
River National Recreation Area in the State of Georgia.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

5 (1) the Chattahoochee River National Recre-
6 ation Area in the State of Georgia is a nationally
7 significant resource;

8 (2) the Chattahoochee River National Recre-
9 ation Area has been adversely affected by land use

1 changes occurring inside and outside the recreation
2 area;

3 (3) the population of the metropolitan Atlanta
4 area continues to expand northward, leaving dwin-
5 dling opportunities to protect the scenic, rec-
6 reational, natural, and historical values of the 2,000-
7 foot-wide corridor adjacent to each bank of the
8 Chattahoochee River and its impoundments in the
9 48-mile segment known as the “area of national con-
10 cern”;

11 (4) the State of Georgia has enacted the Metro-
12 politan River Protection Act to ensure protection of
13 the corridor located within 2,000 feet of each bank
14 of the Chattahoochee River, or the corridor located
15 within the 100-year floodplain, whichever is larger;

16 (5) the corridor located within the 100-year
17 floodplain includes the area of national concern;

18 (6) since establishment of the Chattahoochee
19 River National Recreation Area, visitor use of the
20 recreation area has shifted dramatically from water-
21 borne to water-related and land-based activities;

22 (7) the State of Georgia and political subdivi-
23 sions of the State along the Chattahoochee River
24 have indicated willingness to join in a cooperative ef-
25 fort with the United States to link existing units of

1 the recreation area through a series of linear cor-
2 ridors to be established within the area of national
3 concern and elsewhere on the river; and

4 (8) if Congress appropriates funds in support of
5 the cooperative effort described in paragraph (7),
6 funding from the State, political subdivisions of the
7 State, private foundations, corporate entities, private
8 individuals, and other sources will be available to
9 fund more than half the estimated cost of the coop-
10 erative effort.

11 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

12 (1) to increase the level of protection of the
13 open spaces within the area of national concern
14 along the Chattahoochee River and to enhance vis-
15 itor enjoyment of the open spaces by adding land-
16 based linear corridors to link existing units of the
17 recreation area;

18 (2) to ensure that the Chattahoochee River Na-
19 tional Recreation Area is managed to standardize
20 acquisition, planning, design, construction, and oper-
21 ation of the linear corridors; and

22 (3) to authorize the appropriation of Federal
23 funds to cover a portion of the costs of the Federal,
24 State, local, and private cooperative effort to add ad-
25 ditional areas to the recreation area so as to estab-

1 lish a series of linear corridors linking existing units
2 of the recreation area and to protect other open
3 spaces of the Chattahoochee River corridor.

4 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER NA-**
5 **TIONAL RECREATION AREA ACT.**

6 (a) BOUNDARIES.—Section 101 of the Act entitled
7 “An Act to authorize the establishment of the Chattahoo-
8 chee River National Recreation Area in the State of Geor-
9 gia, and for other purposes”, approved August 15, 1978
10 (16 U.S.C. 460ii), is amended—

11 (1) in the third sentence, by inserting after
12 “numbered CHAT–20,003, and dated September
13 1984,” the following: “and on the maps entitled
14 ‘Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area In-
15 terim Boundary Map #1’, ‘Chattahoochee River Na-
16 tional Recreation Area Interim Boundary Map #2’,
17 and ‘Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area
18 Interim Boundary Map #3’, and dated August 6,
19 1998,”;

20 (2) by striking the fourth sentence and insert-
21 ing the following: “No sooner than 180 days after
22 the date of enactment of this sentence, the Secretary
23 of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Sec-
24 retary’) may modify the boundaries of the recreation
25 area to include other land within the Chattahoochee

1 River corridor by submitting a revised map or other
2 boundary description to the Committee on Energy
3 and Natural Resources of the United States Senate
4 and the Committee on Resources of the United
5 States House of Representatives. The revised map
6 or other boundary description shall be prepared by
7 the Secretary after consultation with affected land-
8 owners, the State of Georgia, and affected political
9 subdivisions of the State. The revised boundaries
10 shall take effect 180 days after the date of submis-
11 sion unless, within the 180-day period, Congress en-
12 acts a joint resolution disapproving the revised
13 boundaries.”; and

14 (3) in the next-to-last sentence, by striking
15 “may not exceed approximately 6,800 acres.” and
16 inserting “may not exceed 10,000 acres.”.

17 (b) ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.—Section 102 of the
18 Act entitled “An Act to authorize the establishment of the
19 Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in the
20 State of Georgia, and for other purposes”, approved Au-
21 gust 15, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 460ii–1), is amended by striking
22 subsection (f).

23 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Section 103 of the
24 Act entitled “An Act to authorize the establishment of the
25 Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in the

1 State of Georgia, and for other purposes”, approved Au-
2 gust 15, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 460ii–2), is amended by striking
3 subsection (b) and inserting the following:

4 “(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary
5 may enter into cooperative agreements with the State of
6 Georgia, political subdivisions of the State, and other enti-
7 ties to ensure standardized acquisition, planning, design,
8 construction, and operation of the recreation area.”.

9 (d) FUNDING.—Section 105 of the Act entitled “An
10 Act to authorize the establishment of the Chattahoochee
11 River National Recreation Area in the State of Georgia,
12 and for other purposes”, approved August 15, 1978 (16
13 U.S.C. 460ii–4), is amended—

14 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
15 following:

16 “(a) FUNDING.—

17 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
18 addition to funding and the donation of land and in-
19 terests in land by the State of Georgia, local govern-
20 ment authorities, private foundations, corporate enti-
21 ties, and individuals, and funding that may be made
22 available as a result of the settlement of litigation,
23 there is authorized to be appropriated for land ac-
24 quisition for the recreation area \$25,000,000 for fis-
25 cal years after fiscal year 1998.

1 “(2) DONATIONS.—The Secretary may accept a
2 donation of funds or land or an interest in land to
3 carry out this title.”; and

4 (2) in subsection (c)—

5 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
6 through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C),
7 respectively, and indenting appropriately;

8 (B) by striking “(c) Within” and inserting
9 the following:

10 “(c) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

11 “(1) INITIAL PLAN.—Within”;

12 (C) in paragraph (1) (as designated by
13 subparagraph (B)), by striking “transmit to”
14 and all that follows through “Representatives”
15 and inserting “transmit to the Committee on
16 Resources of the House of Representatives”;
17 and

18 (D) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(2) REVISED PLAN.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Within 3 years after
21 the date funds are made available, the Sec-
22 retary shall submit to the committees specified
23 in paragraph (1) a revised general management
24 plan to provide for the protection, enhancement,

1 enjoyment, development, and use of the recre-
2 ation area.

3 “(B) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—In pre-
4 paring the revised plan, the Secretary shall en-
5 courage the participation of the State of Geor-
6 gia and affected political subdivisions of the
7 State, private landowners, interested citizens,
8 public officials, groups, agencies, educational in-
9 stitutions, and other entities.”.

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